

HCS SB 735 -- JUDICIAL PROCEEDINGS

SPONSOR: Dixon

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass with Amendments" by the Standing Committee on Civil and Criminal Proceedings by a vote of 7 to 1. Voted "Do Pass with HCS" by the Select Committee on Judiciary by a vote of 8 to 0.

Currently, the expiration date of the Statewide Court Automation Fund fee is September 1, 2018; this amendment extends the expiration date to September 1, 2023. The Court Automation Committee is currently required to complete its duties prior to September 1, 2020; this bill extends that date to September 1, 2025.

The Basic Civil Legal Services Fund is currently set to expire on December 31, 2018. This bill extends the expiration date to December 31, 2025.

The bill adds the executive director of the Missouri Office of Prosecution Services and the director of the State Public Defender System as members of the court automation committee.

The bill repeals a provision requiring the Commission on Judicial Resources to report to certain Senate and House committees regarding office space for public defenders.

The bill extends the date of implementation of a plan to establish district offices that align with Judicial circuit boundaries to December 31, 2021. Under current law, the director of the State Public Defender System must implement a plan to establish district offices that align with judicial circuit boundaries by December 31, 2018. Current law allows the director of the Missouri State Public Defender System to delegate the legal representation of any person to any licensed attorney. This bill specifies that the director can delegate the legal representation of people who are eligible for representation by the Public Defender System.

In addition, current law allows unexpended funds of up to \$150,000 to remain in the Legal Defense and Defender Fund at the end of the fiscal year. This bill removes the cap, so all unexpended money remains in the fund.

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that this bill is clean up language that repeals certain provisions pertaining to the Commission on Judicial Resources, which is now a defunct committee.

Testifying for the bill were Representative McGaugh and The

Missouri Bar.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.